

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSUREVIDEO INFORMATION RETRIEVAL

A video information retrieval system comprises a client system having: means for issuing a search request in respect of desired video material; and means for accessing video material on the basis of a uniform resource locator (URL) and a SMPTE unique material identifier (UMID); a server system having: access to one or more databases containing metadata information relating to a plurality of video material items, a UMID associated with each video material item and at least one URL associated with each UMID; means for receiving a search request from the client system and detecting one or more video material items for which metadata information stored in at least one of the database(s) substantially corresponds to the search request; means for supplying the metadata information, the URL and the UMID relating to the one or more detected video material items to the client system; and at least one video repository having: a video storage arrangement storing video material and associated UMID data; in which the metadata, the URL and the UMID are communicated between the server and the client using a markup language having descriptors for data content.

Figure 2.